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AFP

They were hard-fought battles so it was a bit upsetting but each match mattered. And finally, I could get this win, cross that barrier. I hope this trend continues for the rest of the year

PV Sindhu, on winning the title

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Sindhu wins Singapore Open, claims her first 500 title

Indian overcomes second game setback to beat China's Wang Zhi Yi 21-9, 11-21, 21-15. It's her biggest title win since the 2019 World Championships she won in Basel

Good end to a tough Asian swing

The title — her third of the year — is important because she had been having a rough Asian swing, including multiple losses in the semi-finals and quarterfinals. While she didn't have to face a single seed during her run, it's still a very important title in the bigger scheme of things

Not in the best of form

What will please Sindhu is that she has not been in the best of form. Even during this week in Singapore, she had to scrap her way past opponents ranked outside the top-20

Big 40 days ahead

The win cannot have been timed better. With the Commonwealth Games followed by the Worlds before the end of August, it could have a galvanising effect

WHAT HER COACH DEMANDED

While the 27-year-old is a big-tournament beast, she can sometimes lose the smaller events. In January, her coach, Park Tae Sang, asked Sindhu to start winning more tournaments. Sindhu seems to be paying heed, the three titles she has won in 2022 is one of her best returns

WORLD TOUR RANKING: 2

32

NUMBER OF MATCHES SINDHU HAS WON ON THE CIRCUIT IN 2022

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

United Oppn zeroes in on Alva for V-P elections

Trinamool, AAP are yet to come on board

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE united Opposition on Sunday decided to field Congress veteran Margaret Alva, 80, as its candidate for the Vice-Presidential election. The announcement came a day after the NDA announced the candidature of West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar for the post.

The decision was made at a meeting of 17 Opposition parties at NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar's residence here.

"She will file her nomination papers for the upcoming elections on Tuesday in the presence of leaders of all 17 parties," Pawar said. Important parties that are not on board yet are the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party. Pawar said Trinamool chief Mamata Banerjee and AAP's Arvind Kejriwal were being contacted for their support.

For her part, Alva tweeted: "It is a privilege and an honour to be nominated as the candidate of the joint opposition for the post of Vice President of India. I accept this nomination with great humility and thank the leaders of the opposition."

Both Alva and Dhankhar have a few things in common: a law degree, governorship, stints as minister and parliament experience. Alva was governor of Rajasthan, the state Dhankhar hails from.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh described Alva as a representative of India's wonderful diversity. A few years ago, Alva in her autobiography *Courage and Commitment*, had claimed the Congress first family had links with Agusta Westland scam middleman Christian Michel. "She had claimed she was targeted for outing the Gandhis. Is this nomination a peace deal?" wondered BJP leader Amit Malviya.

MURMU LIKELY TO WIN WITH 60% VOTES

New Delhi: Nearly 4,800 elected MPs and MLAs will vote on Monday to elect the 15th President of India, with NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu having a clear edge over Opposition's Yashwant Sinha as over 60 per cent votes are expected to be cast in her favour. The polling will take place in Parliament House and state legislative assemblies between 10 am and 5 pm.

A police bus being attacked after it was set on fire by protesters in Kallakurichi on Sunday | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Girl's death singes TN district

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

FOUR days after a Class 12 girl was found dead on its premises, violence erupted against a private school in Kallakurichi district on Sunday as hundreds of protesters, demanding justice for the child, went on a rampage allegedly setting on fire at least 13 buses, including three police vehicles, throwing stones, and ransacking the school.

The case has now been transferred to the CB-CID and 72 suspected rioters as well as the school's principal, secretary and correspondent have been arrested. Section 144 has been imposed in Kallakurichi town and parts of Chinnasalem taluk after 52 people, including a DIG and district SP, were injured and properties of the school were ransacked by the mob.

Early on Sunday, thousands of youth and villagers gathered before the Sakthi Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Kaniyamoor of Chinnasalem demanding justice for the deceased girl. The agitators, pushing over police barricades, stormed the school premises and set buses parked inside on fire, police said. Outnumbered for some time, efforts by police to disperse the mob proved futile. Police personnel from nearby districts were soon sent to the spot to bring the situation under control.

A few hours after the violence broke out, Chief Minister M K Stalin appealed to the people to maintain peace and assured them that those guilty would be punished. According to police, the protesters, including volunteers of a youth outfit, had gathered in huge numbers following messages on social media. Home Secretary Phanindra Reddy and Director General of Police C Sylendra Babu, who reached the school on Sunday evening, held talks with authorities to restore normalcy. Speaking to reporters, the DGP said, "Fifty people, including DIG and SP were injured in the violence and close to 70 rioters were arrested till evening. We are identifying the rioters through CCTV footage and video clippings."

The girl from Periyanesalur village in Cuddalore district, a resident of a room on the third floor of the school hostel was suspected to have ended her life by jumping from the top floor. A postmortem report indicated that she had sustained injuries before dying. Soon after hearing about the death, her kin started holding protests in front of the school and at the Kallakurichi GH where her body was kept after autopsy. P5

HC to hear dad's plea for 2nd postmortem

After the father of the girl moved the Madras HC on Sunday seeking a second postmortem, alleging that there were injuries on her body, the court has listed the case for Monday. P5

ISLAND CRISIS

Govt to brief MPs on Lanka tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will on Tuesday brief representatives of all political parties on the situation in Sri Lanka following appeals by the AIADMK and the DMK to the government to intervene in the political and economic crisis there.

At an all-party meeting on Sunday ahead of the monsoon session of Parliament, both parties demanded Indian intervention in Sri Lanka. DMK's T R Baalu and the AIADMK's M Thambidurai were particularly concerned over the condition of Lankan Tamils.

India's position is to not intervene politically, though it has sent loads of aid.

The foreign office last week said, "India stands with the people of Sri Lanka as they seek to realise their aspirations for prosperity and progress through democratic means, values, established institutions and constitutional framework."

The briefings by Jaishankar and Sitharaman will be on their respective domains. Sitharaman is expected to spell out the extent to which India could go to rescue the ailing economy.

Nandini curd, buttermilk to cost more

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

NANDINI curd will cost Rs 46 from Monday, an increase of Rs 3, as the 5 per cent GST on the milk product kicks in. The price of a 200 ml sachet of buttermilk, which earlier cost Rs 7, will be up by Re 1. A sachet of sweet lassi, which was earlier priced at Rs 10 will now cost Rs 11, announced Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) Chairman Balachandra Jarkiholi.

While there has been a demand from milk producers to increase the remunerative prices, there has been no green signal from the government due to certain restrictions, he said.

Farmer leader Kurubur Shantakumar said, "This government is trying to destroy farmers through their policies. It is tragic."

CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

5% GST on packaged food items from today

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs on Sunday said single packages of food items like cereals, pulses and flour weighing up to 25 kg will be considered as 'prepackaged and labelled', and liable to 5% GST from Monday. It clarified that if a retailer supplies in loose quantity the item bought from a manufacturer or a distributor in a 25-kg pack, such sale to consumers will not attract GST.

Namma Clinics to start next month: Bommai

Bengaluru: CM Basvaraj Bommai on Sunday said the state government is giving priority to health and education in Bengaluru. He announced the launch of 234 Namma Clinics in the city next month. P2

EXPRESS INTAKE

Siddaramaiah slams K'taka govt over flood relief | P4

LAC standoff: India, China talks disengagement | P7

Ghulam Nabi Azad to be Cong CM candidate in J&K polls | P8

BLUE REIGN

Ravindra Jadeja (R) reacts as Rishabh Pant (C), who top scored for India at 125, is congratulated after the final ODI against England at Old Trafford in Manchester on Sunday. India won the match by 5 wickets and clinched the series 2-1 | AFP | PTI

ICSE: 5 from Bengaluru bag 2nd rank

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

FIVE students from Bengaluru scored 99.60 per cent in the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ICSE) and bagged the second rank in the country, with only a miniscule 0.20 per cent separating them from the first rankers.

Eighteen students from Bengaluru secured the third rank, while across the country the rank was shared by 72 students.

The merit list in the state was dominated by Bengaluru students, with only one student from Mysuru, Meghna Hazari from Notre Dame School, in the top three rankings, scoring 99.20 per cent.

In all, 54 students were in the top three rankings. Greenwood High, with 10 of its students placed among the top three ranks, had the highest number of such students. CONTINUED ON: P2

Ex-DC Manjunath moves SC against 'media trial'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FORMER Bengaluru Urban deputy commissioner **J Manjunath**, arrested in a bribery case, has moved the Supreme Court, alleging a media trial after Karnataka High Court's Justice HP Sandesh made "unwarranted remarks" while hearing the bail plea of an accused in the matter and later claimed to have received a threat of transfer.

Justice Sandesh had asked why Manjunath, the then Bengaluru Urban DC, was not made an accused in the bribery case involving Deputy Tahsildar Mahesh PS who worked in his office. The judge had termed the state's Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) a "collection centre" and its ADGP Seemanth Kumar Singh a "tainted officer".

The HC judge, who was hearing Mahesh's bail plea, also claimed to have received a threat of transfer after his adverse remarks and had widened the scope of hearing while considering the bail plea.

A bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Krishna Murari and Hima Kohli, which is already seized of two separate appeals of the ACB and the ADGP against the high court's observations, on July 12 had requested the court to defer the hearing in the matter for three days.

Manjunath, who was remanded to custody, has also moved the top court against the remarks and sought an urgent hearing, saying some of the observations were made against him without giving him an opportunity. CONTINUED ON: P4

Youth taking selfie washed away near dam

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

A 22-year-old youth was washed away in flood waters at the Neersagar reservoir on Sunday evening. The operation to trace him had to be called off because of rain and floods, while it also started getting dark. Police officials from Kalghatgi and a team of fire and emergency personnel will resume the operation on Monday.

The police said the victim, Kiran Rajpur, a resident of Begur village of Dharwad district, had come to the dam along with his friends. He went to the edge of the ridge to take a selfie but slipped and fell into the gushing waters, eyewitnesses said. He was washed away and efforts by his friends to trace him went in vain. P4

11 crore-plus vax doses administered in K'taka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN all, 11.37 crore Covid vaccination doses have been administered in Karnataka, even as India clocked over the 200-crore vaccination mark on Sunday.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar congratulated all those making the vaccination campaign a success.

The country has achieved an important milestone in the fight against the coronavirus by administering 200 crore doses of vaccine, he added.

According to the health ministry data, 98 per cent of the adult population has received at least one dose, while 90 per cent has been fully vaccinated.

The vaccination drive in the country has been the fastest, administering 200 crore doses in 18 months. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted, congratulating everyone for hitting the mark and added that this has strengthened the global fight against Covid.

LAZY CATS

Tigers not roaring with virility, mating crisis at B'ghatta zoo

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE zoo authority officials have a unique problem on hand, forcing them to consider exchanging tigers with other zoos of Karnataka and also bringing in some rescued ones.

The aim is to improve reproductivity among tigers at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) zoo. The reason: The veterinarians, animal keepers and staffers at BBP have been noticing that the tigers are not finding their mates at the zoo compatible or attractive, which is affecting their natural mating cycles.

BBP sources told The New Indian Express that this is being observed for some time and that this could be due to multiple reasons. Even if male and female tigers mate, the percentage of conception is seeing a drop, they added.

The reason, they think, is that since many of animals are inbred, their medical condition does not seem to be favourable for reproduction.

Another reason is that females are no longer finding males attractive due to age factors and strength. The lethargic and relaxed lifestyle within the confines of the zoo is also said to be affecting their natural health, which is another reason. Close proximity with humans and being hand-reared for the second or third generation could also be a reason.

"This had not been observed before. It is quite unique and a matter of worry. It could also be that inbreeding issues were never examined so seriously. Now that the staffers have noticed a change in behaviour and attitude of the animals, their activities are being closely monitored. It has also become a matter of concern, as no new offspring have been born for quite some time now at the zoo, especially among tigers. Some felines have started showing health issues," an official said.

To address the issue, the official said, they are contemplating on either bringing in some rescued wild male or female tigers or even exchange some of the in-house tigers with other zoos. The staffers are now enquiring with other zoos whether they are seeing similar problems and what could be the solution.